

Message Text

SECRET

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ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY EB/ORF/FSE:LRRAICHT:JO

APPROVED BY EB:TOENDERS

EUR/RPE - EPREEG

S/S - O: P. JOHNSON

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 007257

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG

SUBJECT: SECRETARY'S MESSAGE TO OPEC GOVERNMENTS

1. EMBASSY IS REQUESTED TO PASS FOLLOWING MESSAGE TO
ETIENNE DAVIGNON FROM ASSISTANT SECRETARY ENDERS.

2. QUOTE: YOU WILL HAVE HEARD OF THE RECENT
ANNOUNCEMENT BY OUR PRESS SPOKESMAN OF THE LETTERS
SECRETARY KISSINGER SENT TO SEVERAL OPEC GOVERNMENTS
AFTER THE MEETING BETWEEN PRESIDENTS FORD AND GISCARD
D'ESTAING IN MARTINIQUE LAST MONTH. THESE LETTERS
WERE DESIGNED TO ENSURE THAT THE KEY PRODUCER GOVERNMENTS
RECEIVED OUR VIEWS ON THE RESULTS OF THE MEETING
DIRECTLY FROM THE SECRETARY. WE HAVE SINCE DECIDED
TO SEND SIMILAR MESSAGES TO ALL OF THE FULL OPEC
MEMBERS.

3. IN HIS LETTER, THE SECRETARY INDICATED THAT THE
UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT HAS FELT FOR SOME TIME--SINCE
THE BEGINNING OF THE ENERGY CRISIS--THAT A MULTILATERAL
DISCUSSION BETWEEN CONSUMER AND PRODUCER GOVERNMENTS
COULD BE USEFUL IF IT WAS ADEQUATELY PREPARED

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IN ADVANCE.

4. THE SECRETARY REPORTED THAT THE DECEMBER MEETING BETWEEN PRESIDENTS FORD AND GISCARD D'ESTAING HAD

RESULTED IN AGREEMENT ON A POSSIBLE TIMETABLE AND APPROACH TO SUCH MULTILATERAL CONTACTS. THE PROPOSAL FOR A SEQUENTIAL, FOUR-STEP SCHEDULE HAD SINCE BEEN ENDORSED BY THE INTERNATIONAL ENERGY AGENCY.

5. THE LETTER EXPLAINED THAT THE UNITED STATES HAS EMPHASIZED THE NEED FOR AGREEMENT BY CONSUMER COUNTRIES ON KEY ENERGY AND FINANCIAL ISSUES PRIOR TO THE PROPOSED CONFERENCE BECAUSE OF OUR CONCERN THAT AN UNSUCCESSFUL CONFERENCE WOULD BE SERIOUSLY DETRIMENTAL TO BOTH CONSUMERS AND PRODUCERS. IT NOTED THE MANY PUBLIC STATEMENTS BY PRODUCER GOVERNMENTS REGARDING THE IMPORTANCE OF CONSERVATION, DEVELOPMENT OF ALTERNATIVE SOURCES OF ENERGY AND FINANCIAL STABILITY.

6. THE SECRETARY STRESSED THAT THE OBJECTIVE OF NECESSARY ADVANCE CONCERTATION AMONG CONSUMERS IS COOPERATION, NOT CONFRONTATION. HE INDICATED THAT WE DO NOT INTEND THAT ALL CONTACTS BETWEEN CONSUMERS AND PRODUCERS BE ON A BLOC TO BLOC BASIS; RATHER THAT THE UNITED STATES DESIRES TO IMPROVE ITS BILATERAL DIALOGUE WITH INDIVIDUAL PRODUCER GOVERNMENTS TO ENHANCE OUR COOPERATIVE EFFORTS TO MEET THE ENERGY CRISIS.

7. THE SECRETARY REPORTED THAT PRESIDENT FORD WAS IN THE PROCESS OF DECIDING THE MAJOR ISSUES REGARDING U.S. DOMESTIC ENERGY POLICY. THESE WILL BE ANNOUNCED SHORTLY. WE EXPRESSED OUR BELIEF THAT THESE DECISIONS WOULD MAKE A SUBSTANTIAL CONTRIBUTION TO RESOLUTION OF THE WORLD ENERGY PROBLEM. THE SECRETARY INDICATED THAT THE U.S. GOVERNMENT WISHED TO REMAIN IN CLOSE TOUCH WITH PRODUCER GOVERNMENTS ON MAJOR ENERGY ISSUES IN THE FUTURE.

8. WE INTEND TO REPORT ON THE LETTERS AT NEXT WEEK'S MEETING OF THE PRODUCER/CONSUMER GROUP. UNQUOTE. KISSINGER
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